

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 01833 280510Z

14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 IO-11 SAM-01 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 280454Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7412

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK 1833

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJ: FIRST CT ATTACK ON DISTRICT CAPITOL IN THE NORTHEAST

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CHIANG MAI JAN 27

FM UDORN RPTD FOR YOUR INFO:

UDORN 328

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, TH

SUBJECT: FIRST CT ATTACK ON DISTRICT CAPITOL IN THE NORTHEAST

1. MORNING OF JAN 27, UDORN DEPUTY GOVERNOR SAISIT PHORNKEO TOLD CONSUL THAT ON JAN 25 AT 2310 HOURS APPROXIMATELY 200 INSURGENTS RAIDED DISTRICT CAPITOL OF NAM SOM DISTRICT IN UDORN. THE BATTLE REPORTEDLY LASTED UNTIL 0300 JAN 26 WITH ONE POLICEMAN WOUNDED AND NO KNOWN CT CASUALTIES. CT USED ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADES AND SMALL ARMS. THEY HIT DISTRICT POLICE STATION AND POWER PLANT AND FIRED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE.

2. SAISIT SAID THIS WAS FIRST ATTACK ON A DISTRICT CAPITOL IN THE NORTHEAST AND THE SECOND IN THE HISTORY OF THE INSURGENCY. (HE SAID FIRST SUCH ATTACK WAS IN THUNG YAI DISTRICT, NAKHOM SRI THAMMARAT ON JAN 23, 1976).

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 01833 280510Z

3. DEPUTY GOVERNOR IS CONVINCED NAM SOM AND THUNG YAI

ATTACKS REPRESENT CONSCIOUS ATTEMPT BY INSURGENTS TO RAISE THE ANTE BY ATTACKING THE ADMINISTRATIVE APPARATUS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN ADDITION TO POLICE AND MILITARY OUTPOSTS. HE EXPECTED OTHER SUCH ATTACKS, POSSIBLY IN SUWANNAL KHUHA OR NONG WUA SAW OF UDORN.

4. COMMENT: TWO HUNDRED CT FIGURE IS PROBABLY INFLATED. A FOUR HOUR BATTLE WITH ALMOST NO CASUALTIES ALSO STRAINS THE IMAGINATION. NEVERTHELESS, ATTACK COULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT DEPARTURE IN CT TACTICS, PARTICULARLY IF AS SAISIT SUGGESTED THE ATTACKS IN DISTRICT CAPITOLS IN THE NORTHEAST AND SOUTH ARE RELATED.

HENDRICKSON
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMUNISTS, TERRORISTS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO01833
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760031-1045
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760115/aaaaamvo.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST CT ATTACK ON DISTRICT CAPITOL IN THE NORTHEAST FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO CHIANG MAI JAN 27
TAGS: PINS, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006